

Craig Eiland, whose wife was harassed by the Texas troopers, and people like Alan Ritter and Joe Deshotel, who took time away from their families to go away to Ardmore, Oklahoma, and to exhibit a protest.

And shame on those who have said that those people are turning their backs on their jobs and turning their backs on their constituents and not wanting to go back and address the problems of the State of Texas. That is nonsense, it is offending, because these people to want to go back, they do want to go back and do their jobs, and they do want to address the critical problems that face Texas today, whether it deals with financing of our education system, which is in dire straits, whether it is the health needs, or the significant deficit that Texas faces of \$10 billion to \$12 billion, and they will do so as soon as the speaker of the Texas House of Representatives agrees to get rid of these nonpriority, personal political agenda items so that we can address the real needs of the State of Texas.

I had a newsperson ask me today, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the people of Texas could be controlled by one person, and whether the Texas House of Representatives could be controlled by one person. I am thrilled to be able to say no, that it cannot be.

Yes, the Republicans may win on this issue in Austin, Texas, but we will raise every objection that we can possibly raise. And they may win in the Senate, and we will raise that objection again. And they may win in the courts, but we will be right there. And the sad part of it is that the people of Texas will pay over and over again with the costs that are going to be associated with legal assistance and defending this issue and the huge amount of time and effort that is going to be taken away from our need to address the real issues of Texas.

God bless those Texas legislators. We are proud of every one of you, and know you are going to do the Lord's work for all of us in Texas, and we will get to the bottom of it, and the people of Texas in the end will win.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from Houston (Mr. BELL).

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important as we discuss this important subject that we recall some historical perspective. My good friend from Harris County referred to some recent history just a short while ago in which he pointed out some of the hypocrisy of the current speaker of the Texas House.

It is also interesting to go back to the year 1984. The reason I think it is interesting is because a lot of people in the last few days have said, is this not just politics as usual? Is this not just what happens in the State of Texas?

Well, quite honestly, it is not. If you go back to the year 1984, that was the

year that our current majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and five other Republicans were elected. It was an unprecedented success on the Republican side.

Interestingly, in 1984 the majority leader of this body, the United States House of Representatives, was none other than Jim Wright, a Democrat from Fort Worth, Texas. In the State House of Representatives, there was a strong Democratic majority, in the State Senate of Texas there was a strong Democratic majority. But in that year there was absolutely no effort made whatsoever to go back and redistrict and change those seats from whence the six representatives, the six Republican representatives, had been elected, because, quite simply, that is just not the way things have been done.

As we come to a close tonight, I want to go back to the Houston Chronicle editorial that my good friend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) referred to earlier, because I think it makes a very eloquent case about what we have witnessed this week.

In its closing, perhaps the most valid criticism that could be made of the missing Democrats is that "their place is in the capital, doing the people's business and debating the issues, win, lose or draw. In a more civil era that would be right. But Speaker Craddick throughout the session has discouraged debate, opposition amendments and all of the other give and take of politics. On many occasions, he and his lieutenants seem to regard examination and principal discussion of legislation as irritants. It is not too late to salvage the legislative session. It is past time, however, for Governor Perry, Speaker Craddick, Majority Leader DELAY, et al., to follow George W. Bush's gubernatorial example, and realize that good government is bipartisan government, shaped by compromise, and the broad public interest."

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me just quickly say that there has been a representation that this meat cutter of a plan by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) protects minorities and supports the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Let me clearly say, Mr. Speaker, that that was an emotional time in our history. It was a time when there were deaths in Philadelphia, Mississippi; it was a time when the State troopers attacked peaceful marchers crossing the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965; it was a time when there was great intenseness in the United States Congress to be able to pass a Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This district, this plan, does not represent, commemorate or give honor to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This plan is a sham, it is a shame, when it takes away the historic birthplace of Barbara Jordan out of the 18th Con-

gressional District. All I can do is remind this body of the words of Barbara Jordan during the impeachment proceedings of Richard Nixon, that she would refuse to be diminished, and that she spoke for the people of the United States of America, and that she reinforced her belief in the Constitution.

This is a sham of a process. This Congress should be ashamed, the State legislature in Texas should be ashamed, we all should be ashamed, and we should get back to the business in celebration, commemoration in honor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MARKING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HOLLIDAYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a significant historical event in the community of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. This month the Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg will mark its 200th anniversary. The rich history of Zion Lutheran is a testament to its founders and all of its congregants to this day.

By 1803, population centers in the United States were expanding westward. As small groups of people started to settle west of the Allegheny Mountains for the first time, a small group of German immigrants, led by Pastor Frederick Haas, started the first congregation of Zion Lutheran Church in a log building in Frankstown, Pennsylvania, 200 years ago.

While many of the original members were used to the grand cathedrals of Europe, and the new log building was certainly a different way to worship for many settlers, their desire to worship and develop community moved them to embrace their new surroundings.

With the opening of the Pennsylvania Canal and the Allegheny Portage Railroad in 1830, Hollidaysburg flourished and became the county seat. As the town continued to grow, congregants needed a larger building to worship, and a new church opened its doors to the spiritual needs of the community in 1853. Today congregants of Zion Lutheran still make this building their center of spiritual community, and it also serves as a central feature of the historic section of the Hollidaysburg borough.